

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Valid publication of *Ptilotus stirlingii* subsp. *australis* (Amaranthaceae)

In an oversight in a paper (Davis & Butcher 2010) resolving the status of infraspecific taxa in *Ptilotus stirlingii* (Lindl.) F.Muell., the Latin diagnosis for the new subspecies *Ptilotus stirlingii* subsp. *australis* R.W.Davis & R.Butcher was omitted, thereby rendering the name invalidly published under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. This omission is rectified here, and the new subspecies formally described.

***Ptilotus stirlingii* subsp. *australis* R.W.Davis & R.Butcher, subsp. nov.**

Ptiloto stirlingii (Lindl.) F.Muell. subsp. *stirlingii* affinis sed habito protrato, bracteis longioribus 5.3–7.5 mm longis (in *stirlingii* 1.8–4.5 mm) et bracteolis 5.4–6.3 mm longis (in *stirlingii* 3–5 mm) distinguendo.

Typus: 6.3 km north along track from Melaleuca Road, c. 43 km north-north-west of Munghlinup, Western Australia, 33° 20' 55.3" S, 120° 39' 10.3" E, 12 December 2005, R. Davis 10956 (*holo*: PERTH 07256361; *iso*: CANB, K).

Ptilotus stirlingii (Lindl.) F.Muell. var. *minutus* Benl, Mitt. Bot. Staatssamml. München 6: 503 (1967). *Type*: Grass Patch, Western Australia, October 1931, W.E. Blackall 1028 (*holo*: PERTH!; *iso*: PERTH!).

Ptilotus stirlingii (Lindl.) F.Muell. var. *laxus* (Benth.) Benl, Mitt. Bot. Staatssamml. München 6: 500 (1967). *Trichinium laxum* Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 5: 232 (1870); *Ptilotus laxus* (Benth.) F.Muell., *Syst. Census Austral. Pl.* 1: 28 (1882). *Type*: between Cape Le Grand and Cape Pasley, Western Australia, G. Maxwell s.n. (*holo*: MEL n.v.; *iso*: BM n.v., K (image!); MEL n.v.).

Prostrate perennial herb to 8 cm high. *Stems* terete, ribbed, sparsely hairy. *Cauline leaves* narrowly elliptical or oblanceolate to obovate, 5–30 mm long, 2–7 mm wide, glabrous to sparsely hairy. *Inflorescences* ovoid to shortly cylindrical, 20–37 mm long, 22–28 mm wide; *bracts* narrowly ovate, 5.3–7.5 mm long; *bracteoles* broadly ovate to obovate, 5.4–6.3 mm long. *Outer tepals* 10–14 mm long; *inner tepals* 10.5–13.5 mm long; *staminal cup* 2.5–3 mm long; *style* 3.5–5.1 mm long; *ovary* glabrous. *Seed* slightly glossy, brown, to 1.8 mm long.

Distribution and habitat. Distributed through a large part of the Esperance Plains IBRA region, where it is mostly found in coastal areas, although extends as far inland as the Stirling Range and Grasspatch. Occurs in heathlands and mallee woodlands on deep sands to gravelly loams.

Phenology. Flowering from late October though to January.

Notes. *Ptilotus stirlingii* subsp. *australis* is poorly collected but from the material available it appears to be reasonably consistent morphologically. Field observations suggest that it may only be abundant after fire, perhaps accounting for the relatively few collections.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Paul Wilson for the Latin diagnosis and for bringing its previous absence to our attention.

References

- Davis, R.W. & Butcher, R. (2010). The status of infraspecific taxa and new subspecies in *Ptilotus stirlingii* (Amaranthaceae). *Nuytsia* 20: 261–270.

Robert W. Davis and Ryonen Butcher

Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Environment and Conservation,
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983